

Application/Control Number: 09/910,093  
Art Unit: 2654

Docket No.: 2001-0226

### REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

By this amendment, claims 1-38 remain pending, claims 1-8, 10-21, 23-28, 30 and 32-37 having been amended.

#### Rejection of Claims 1-38

On page 2 of the non-Final Office Action of May 23, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1-38 under 35 U.S.C. 101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-38 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements. In particular, the Examiner pointed out that there is allegedly no input and output recited in the claims. Applicants submit that the amended claims obviate the rejections.

Amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a method of removing empty string terms from an automaton A having a plurality of states "p", a plurality of states "q", and a plurality of outgoing transitions from the plurality of states "p", E[p]. The method includes, among other things, inputting a plurality of electrical signals representing the automaton A representing, the automaton A further representing a plurality of hypotheses with associated

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weights, and producing a plurality of electrical signals representing an improved automaton A.

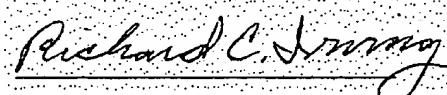
Applicants submit that amended claim 1 recites a physical input and output and structural cooperative relationships. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claim 1 and dependent claims 2-9 be withdrawn.

Amended independent claims 10, 16, 19, 20, 21 and 30 have features similar to the previously-discussed features of amended claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 10, 16, 20, 21 and 30, as well as dependent claims 11-15, 17, 18, 22-29 and 31-38 be withdrawn for reasons similar to those presented with respect to claim 1.

### CONCLUSION

Having addressed the rejection of all claims, Applicants respectfully submit that the subject application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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